



# NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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## **U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRESENTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AWARDS**

### ***Eight Cities Honored For Model Best-Practice Programs***

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Conference of Mayors today recognized outstanding partnerships between cities and companies at the Conference's 73<sup>rd</sup> Winter Meeting. In addition to Laredo (TX) Mayor Betty Flores who serves as Chair of the Mayors and Business Community Task Force, Akron Mayor and Conference President Donald L. Plusquellic participated in the awards ceremony.

In announcing the awards, Mayor Flores remarked, "All of these partnerships share in common a synergy that has changed the way city services are delivered. Time after time, we have seen how public-private partnerships have resulted in new and creative approaches to solving some of the most intractable problems faced by cities. These award winners will inspire more cities and companies to work together to improve the quality of life for all city residents."

The Mayors Business Council established these awards to encourage businesses and cities to work together to improve local communities. An independent panel of judges was appointed by the Conference of Mayors to review the submissions. The judges are former Mayor of Santa Clara, CA Judy Nadler, Former Mayor of Rockford, IL Charles Box, and Neil Hare, Vice President of Corporate Communications for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Criteria upon which their selections were made included: improvement in delivery of services, replicability, sustainability, cost savings, creativity of approach, benefits to both public and private partners, economic and business benefits, and measurable results.

The award winners and program descriptions are as follows:

#### **AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE:**

City	Company	Partnership
Chicago, IL	URS	Millennium Park
St. Louis, MO	Nextel Communications	STARRS/EPTS

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

City	Company	Partnership
Boston, MA	Freddie Mac	CreditSmart Boston
Columbus, OH	Fannie Mae	Communities Properties Project
Houston, TX	Lehman Brothers	Houston Convention Center Hotel
Las Vegas, NV	Cox Communications	Cox Goal Getters
Palm Springs, CA	Veolia Water North America	City of Palm Springs and Veolia Wastewater Partnership
Tyler, TX	Johnson Controls	Cooperative Savings

### **CHICAGO, IL/MILLENNIUM PARK:**

URS, the Public Building Commission of Chicago and the City worked closely to manage and coordinate the construction of Millennium Park, an artistic and cultural oasis for residents and tourists. Millennium Park is comprised of the Frank Gehry designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, a sophisticated outdoor music venue, the 925 foot long BP Bridge, the 110 Cloud Gate sculpture, located in the SBC Plaza, the Crown Fountain, and the Lurie Garden. The \$475 million project was funded through public funds and private donations. Fundraisers tapped individuals, corporations, trusts and foundations to improve the quality of the project. Fifty seven percent of the funding was donated by private sources.

For more information, about Millennium Park, please contact Bill Lafayette, Senior Vice President, URS, (412) 503-4720; [bill.Lafayette@urscorp.com](mailto:bill.Lafayette@urscorp.com) or Kevin S. Gujral, Chief of Infrastructure Operations, City of Chicago, (312) 744-9129; [kgujral@cityofchicago.org](mailto:kgujral@cityofchicago.org).

### **ST. LOUIS, MO/NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Five years ago, the City of Saint Louis began developing a coordinated regional response to large-scale critical incidents in the bi-state region. Today, the organization known as STARRS has developed a mutual aid agreement among hospitals and designed an emergency patient tracking system, which tracks injured persons from the scene of an emergency to area hospitals.

Nextel, Raytheon, and AirClic partnered with the St. Louis Metropolitan Medical Response to develop a process to identify the status of the injured and transport them to proper medical facilities. This incident response system, the Emergency Patient Tracking System (EPTS) is a state of the art wireless triage system. This first of its kind system provides hospitals, health departments, the Missouri National Guard and the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency with instant and secure communications. Critical information is collected and transmitted instantly to hospitals and emergency personnel.

The STARRS partnership is now responsible for five separate contracts in disaster preparedness and homeland security. By leveraging new technology and communications, the STARRS partnership, has reduced health care costs and improved the quality care and the security of the community.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Hawkins, Public Relations Manager, Nextel Communications, (703-433-4276); [Cheryl.harkins@nextel.com](mailto:Cheryl.harkins@nextel.com) or Sam Simon, City of St. Louis, (314) 662-3201.

### **BOSTON, MA/FREDDIE MAC:**

The CreditSmart Boston partnership between Freddie Mac and the Boston Department of Neighborhood Development is designed to provide financial literacy training to more than 3000 consumers.

CreditSmart Boston workshops are delivered by 12 participating homebuyer education providers. The workshops provide 10 hours of training on obtaining good credit. Prospective First time home buyers receive CreditSmart training along with the homebuyer training program required to obtain a Boston HOME Certificate. The homebuyer training is a 10-hour course covering all aspects of the home buying process, including credit and money management. Participants have an opportunity to apply for closing cost and down payment assistance, participation in lotteries for city-owned property (new and rehabilitated) and access to affordable mortgage products.

To date, 20 workshops have been held in Boston with 580 participants. For more information, please contact Preston Lee, Director, Industry Relations, Freddie Mac, (703) 903-2554; [preston\\_lee@freddiemac.com](mailto:preston_lee@freddiemac.com); or Bill Cotter, City of Boston, (617) 635-0458.

### **COLUMBUS, OH/FANNIE MAE:**

Affordable housing is the cornerstone of Mayor Michael B. Coleman's administration, and Community Properties, the largest affordable housing initiative of its type in the nation, affecting the rehabilitation of more than 1,000 apartments and 200 buildings in seven neighborhoods.

Using public and private financing, more than 1000 units will be rehabilitated. The project is financed by tax-exempt bonds, purchased by Fannie Mae, as well as private investment and gap financing is being provided by the City of Columbus and the State of Ohio.

In addition to the physical improvements, Community provides is providing a service enriched environment, providing access or referrals to more than 50 organizations, including educational and employment placements. The tenant "help line" was created to quickly and effectively respond to service requests. The Community Properties project is an example of how affordable housing leads to healthier communities.

For more information, please contact Cindy Flaherty, Fannie Mae, (614) 222-8945; [cynthia\\_a\\_Flaherty@fanniemae.com](mailto:cynthia_a_Flaherty@fanniemae.com); or Mike Brown, City of Columbus, (614) 645-6428; [msbrown@columbus.gov](mailto:msbrown@columbus.gov).

### **HOUSTON, TX/LEHMAN BROTHERS:**

The City of Houston has recognized the need for a major downtown hotel since the 1980's. After several years, however, it became clear that private development would not be able to complete the project. The city sponsored, not for profit Houston Convention Center Hotel Corporation (the Corporation) was challenged with the design and development of a world-class hotel in downtown Houston. The Corporation selected a developer, architect and construction management company. Lehman brothers, along with several other financial institutions, provided low cost AAA rated tax exempt financing.

The city-sponsored Hotel Corporation is now the owner of the biggest hotel in the region. The property is mortgage free, profitable and meets the needs of the thriving downtown business and entertainment district.

For more information, please contact Ernest Green, Managing Director, Lehman Brothers (202) 452-4728; [ernest.green@leham.com](mailto:ernest.green@leham.com) or Dawn Ullrich, City of Houston, (713) 853-8083; [dawn.ullrich@cityofhouston.com](mailto:dawn.ullrich@cityofhouston.com).

### **LAS VEGAS, CA/ COX COMMUNICATIONS:**

Cox GoalGetters is a public awareness campaign aimed at encouraging children to set and achieve realistic and measurable goals, in the areas of physical education, academics, attendance and citizenship.

Offered free to all Las Vegas public and private schools, the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs and the Classroom on Wheels Programs, Cox GoalGetters is a year round program impacting nearly 180,000 students and their parents and more than 6,100 teachers and administrators through the Cox GoalGetters Student Award Card and Cox GoalGetters Gazette, a quarterly newsletter. According to a recent study, 16% of program participants experienced an increase in grades and 29.6% had improved attendance.

For more information, please contact Steve Schorr, Vice President Public Affairs/Government Affairs, Cox Communications, (702) 384-8084; [Steve.Schorr@cox.com](mailto:Steve.Schorr@cox.com); Stephanie Boxio, City of Las Vegas, (702) 229.6241; [Sbocio@LasVegasNevada.gov](mailto:Sbocio@LasVegasNevada.gov).

### **PALM SPRINGS, CA/VEOLIA WATER:**

In 1999, the City of Palm Springs and Veolia Water entered into a public-private partnership for the operations and management of wastewater management. The partnership has saved the City of Palm Springs \$1 million a year on wastewater operations costs.

When the worst energy crisis in California History increased the cost of electricity and gas by 50-70%, the operating expenses at the wastewater plant have remained stable. With the city's help, Veolia Water obtained twin micro turbine electrical generators at no cost to the city from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAWMD). These natural gas powered turbines reduce the annual electric bill by forty percent. The new equipment also reduced the amount of PM-10 produced by the plant by 95%.

In addition to the \$1 million saved on wastewater treatment costs, the city has been able to reduce its sewer connection fee by forty percent. The micro-turbine technology has also saved the city \$45,000 in energy costs.

For more information, contact Cristie Kaluza, Veolia Water, North America, (218) 985-5481; [cristie.kaluza@veoliawaterna.com](mailto:cristie.kaluza@veoliawaterna.com); Mayor Ron Oden, (760) 323-8200.

### **TYLER, TX/JOHNSON CONTROLS**

Challenged by budget constraints and a desire to avoid tax increases, the City of Tyler needed to fund facility and public safety improvements and meet a five-year state energy reduction mandate. Planners also wanted to recover \$2.2 million in annual lost revenues from inaccurate water meter readings.

Tyler Water utilities hired Johnson Controls to install more efficient water meter readers and traffic signals. The automatic water meters provide more reliable data and a safer working environment for utility workers. The upgrade was accomplished without staff reductions, and completed ahead of schedule. The city receives nearly \$29 million in benefits over a ten-year period, and has decreased loss revenues by delivering a more accurate measurement of water usage. The upgrades to both the water meters and traffic signals have exceeded the states five-year mandate of a 25% energy reduction.

For more information, please contact Cynde Dornuf, Marketing Program Manager, Johnson Controls, (414)524-4590; [cynde.j.dornuf@jci.com](mailto:cynde.j.dornuf@jci.com); or Greg Morgan, City of Tyler, (903) 531-1234; [gmorgan@tylertexas.com](mailto:gmorgan@tylertexas.com).

*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.*

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